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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Fourteenth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the  
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
26-30 April 1993

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twenty-eighth session of the Commission/  
nineteenth meeting of the Conference of  
Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
3-6 May 1993

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE OF METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (ACMAD)**

Nairobi, Kenya, 12-13 February 1993

1. The fifth meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12 and 13 February 1993.
2. The meeting was attended by the following representatives of member States: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, the Congo, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Zaire. Madagascar did not attend (letter N°08/RP on 8/2/93); representatives of international organizations: OAU, ECA, WMO, FAO, UNEP and UNDP. Following the special invitation of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Chairman of the Board of Governors, the following attended the meeting: President of WMO Regional Association 1 - Africa, Director General of ARSO and Director General of RCSSMRS.

### OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of ECA and Chairman of the Board. He welcomed members of the Board of Governors and underscored his pleasure that, at least for the first time, it was possible for him and Prof. Obasi, Secretary General of WMO, to both be present at the meeting of the Board. He thought that their presence would lend itself to very useful discussions as to how the Centre can be effectively operational. He also expressed his happiness that UNEP, FAO, UNDP and OAU were represented to share in the deliberations on the running of the Centre.
4. He pointed out that the Board was meeting at a time when the Centre was going through an important phase of its existence. Drought and desertification mitigation, which were the problems for which the Centre was established, were still featuring in the continent as an important cause of environmental degradation, poor economic performance and consequently crisis in development. In addition to the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa had gone through some of the severest droughts in its history. These had underscored the need for ACMAD to effectively fulfil the mandates it was set up to accomplish.
5. He recalled that the last meeting was held in Addis Ababa in April 1992 at which the draft work programme and budget of the Centre for 1992-1994 were approved, providing for the recruitment of the core staff and other recurrent expenditure needed for the basic functioning of the Centre. The resolution adopting the budget made it possible for member States to pay their contributions in local currency through UNDP offices. Since then, the Centre had tried its best to generate the type of meteorological information that would be of use to member States. ACMAD is, therefore, introducing itself gradually into the mainstream of meteorological information network of Africa. ACMAD had also been involved in a number of activities which introduced it to the network of institutions in the area of meteorological applications.
6. He also noted that, in adopting the work programme and budget, the Board was under the assumption that the necessary contributions from member States to meet the recurrent expenditures of the Centre would be made. Unfortunately, this turned out not to be the case. Very few countries paid contributions. However, a number of actions have been taken by WMO, UNEP and ECA to facilitate the operations of the Centre. But these need to be backed by concrete support from member States.
7. He assured members of the Board of his determination to see the Centre operating properly and would spare no efforts to take actions towards realizing this objective. He finally thanked Prof. Obasi, Secretary General of WMO, for having been able to hold useful discussions with him and to attend the opening ceremony of this important meeting. This shows the marked interest of both ECA and WMO to ensuring the proper implementation of the ACMAD programme.
8. In his opening remarks, Prof. G.O.P Obasi, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, expressed first of all his appreciation to the Board for the opportunity given to him to address the meeting and his thanks to the Kenya Government and to the PR of Kenya with WMO, Mr. Evans Mukolwe, for the hospitality extended and the facilities made available for the meeting. He further

expressed his pleasure of having had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Secretary of ECA, Chairman of the Board, to discuss important issues related to the promotion of ACMAD and its objectives.

9. Prof. Obasi reiterated his personal commitment and that of WMO towards the realization of ACMAD objectives, the Centre of which will go a long way to meet the expectation of the meteorological community, planners and decision makers, in Africa. Prof. Obasi also noted that significant progress have been made in the implementation of ACMAD programme, but that several difficulties were being encountered by the Centre due to limited financial resources from member States. He informed the meeting that several efforts have been already deployed by ECA, WMO and the host country, the Niger, in mobilizing resources from member States and from the donor community and appealed to all partners to join efforts in securing adequate funding for the continued operations of the Centre.

10. Prof. Obasi finally expressed his thanks to the supportive member States who have ratified the ACMAD Constitution and have paid their contribution and those donors who have already provided financial and technical support to the Centre. He wished a successful meeting to the members of the Board.

11. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. E.A. Mukolwe, on behalf of the Kenya Government, welcomed all the participants to Kenya and in particular to Nairobi. He wished them a successful meeting. He added that the Kenya Government is committed to the success of ACMAD. To this end, the Government has already ratified the ACMAD Constitution. He concluded by saying that plans are under way for Kenya to pay its contributions due to ACMAD, including the arrears.

12. The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

1. Report of the last meeting and matters arising from it.
2. Status of implementation of ACMAD as at 31.1.93.
  - (a) Technical installations and operational activities;
  - (b) Agreements for technical collaboration;
  - (c) Ratification of the Constitution and payment of the contributions;
  - (d) Donors' contributions;
  - (e) Financial and administrative management.
3. ACMAD Plan of Action 1993-1994.
4. Mobilization of human and financial resources.
5. Modalities for updating the ACMAD Programme Document.
6. Other matters.
7. Date and venue of the next meeting.
8. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

Report of the last meeting and matters arising from it (agenda item 1)

13. Document ACMAD/BG5/DOCno2 contained the issues that were raised in the last meeting. However, some of the issues were fully discussed under agenda item 4. The meeting then reviewed the matters raised in the document and noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations made by the Board have received attention and have been implemented to a certain degree.

14. Concerning the signing of agreements with ACMAD partners, the meeting emphasized that the Board should be given the opportunity to review such agreements before signature. The Board requested that copies of the signed agreement should be sent to its members.

Status of implementation of ACMAD as of 31.1.93 (agenda item 2)

15. Document No. ACMAD/BG5/DocNo3 was introduced by the secretariat. It dealt with the main activities undertaken in the implementation of the ACMAD programme during the period under review. It also provided information on the financial situation of the Centre from 1 May 1992 to 31 January 1993.

16. Concerning the dissemination of ACMAD products, the meeting considered that it was necessary to use other available means and in particular MDD systems to gradually replace transmission by telefax. There was also the need to ensure that MDD receiving systems were included in the ACMAD assistance request programmes for some countries in need, using donors contributions such as trust fund for ACMAD.

17. With regard to obtaining resources from member States, the Board observed that recommendation by ECA resolution 741 to receive contributions in local currency had begun to yield fruitful results. In fact Algeria has already initiated action using this mechanism to pay its arrears.

18. The revision of staff rules also drew attention of the meeting. The meeting pointed out that a detailed proposal of a modified version of the staff rules should have been presented for review.

19. In view of the above, the meeting made the following conclusions and recommendations:

- (a) A reserve fund should be established by ACMAD as soon as possible;
- (b) The necessity to freeze recruitment of professional personnel on ACMAD budget in light of the present financial situation of the Centre was recommended. However, the Director-General was encouraged to mobilize financial support from donor sources for this purpose;
- (c) For the update of ACMAD staff rules and regulations adopted in 1988, a small working group was established to look into this important matter and submit a proposal to the Board of Governors at its earliest convenience. Meanwhile, ACMAD in coordination with ECA was asked to take measures on urgent matters within the interpretation of the staff rules and regulations. The Chairman of the Board was requested to organize the work of this group.

ACMAD Plan of Action 1993-1994 (agenda item 3)

20. Document No. ACMAD/BG5/DocNo4 was presented by the secretariat. The document described the main activities for the implementation of the ACMAD programme for the period 1993/94, within the budget approved in April 1992 by the ECA Conference of Ministers and taking into account the actual financial situation of the Centre.

21. The meeting approved the ACMAD short-term programme submitted by the secretariat. However, it emphasized the need to review the ACMAD programme to initiate medium- and long-term plans which will take account of the main objectives for which the Centre was established. Regarding weather forecasting on a continental scale, the meeting expressed the need to further develop the medium range weather forecasts of four days to longer periods which would interest more member States. For that purpose, research initiative were encouraged. It was further suggested that medium-term objectives could include improving data availability, the adoption of innovative methods and techniques and improved international cooperation particularly with subregional bodies.

22. A research programme should be developed to master the techniques necessary for achieving the objectives of the Centre. In this regard, the meeting requested the Director General to ensure that projects and programmes submitted by its partners should be within the objectives and framework of the ACMAD programme. Furthermore, the activities of the Centre should cover as much as possible relevant applications of interest to ECA member States.

23. Scientific publications should also be part of the activities of the Centre. Networking with relevant national and regional institutions is encouraged. Pending the availability of permanent research staff, the meeting requested the establishment of a research advisory group to coordinate the implementation of ACMAD research programmes. The Director General will submit proposals to this effect to the Chairman of the Board for approval.

24. The meeting felt that it was necessary to establish a biennial work programme and a medium-term plan which would highlight the applications objectives of the Centre.

Mobilization of human and financial resources (agenda item 4)

25. The meeting noted that the need for sensitization missions to member States and, at high level, to funding institutions (ADB, IDB, World Bank, UNDP, EEC, etc.) for the mobilization of resources. The meeting agreed that a donors conference would be convened after all adequate preparation have been made.

26. The Chairman promised to support actively this exercise in cooperation with WMO as a result of the joint and fruitful meeting between the Chairman and the Secretary General of WMO, held in Nairobi on Thursday, 11 February 1993.

Modalities for revising the ACMAD programme document (agenda item 5)

27. The meeting noted that ECA accepted to prepare the draft of such a programme document and circulate it to relevant agencies for their comments before submission to the Board for consideration.

28. Furthermore, the logo of the Centre and the ACMAD brochure would be prepared after the programme document has have been revised.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

29. The Board requested that the documents for the future meetings be ready and distributed to members at least two months before the meeting.

Data and venue of the next meeting (agenda item 7)

30. The Board decided that its next meeting would be held at the headquarters of the Centre, in Niamey, the Niger, at a date to be announced by the Chairman after consultation with the host country.

Adoption of report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 8)

31. This report was adopted by the meeting. The meeting was closed by the Vice-Chairman of the Board Mr. M.Y. Boulama.